

Message Text

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CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /148 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3320

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1241

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 2690

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, UX

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 037591

1. UNDER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, GOM HAS TESTED ITS WINGS IN JUST ABOUT EVERY IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL FORUM OF WHICH IT IS A MEMBER(AND INDEED HAS TAKEN INITIATIVE IN CREATING SOME). ITS MAIN EFFORTS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED IN:

A. UNCTAD/G-77-ECHEVERRIA TAKES CREDIT FOR HAVING ORIGINATED AND PROMOTED UNGA ADOPTION OF CERDS AND CONSIDERS HIMSELF A LEADING PRO-PONENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. GOM THEREFORE TAKES A KEEN INTEREST IN G-77 AND ITS ATTEMPTS AT THIRD WORLD POLICY FORUMLATION.

B. OAS AND UN REFORM- MEXICO HAS ASSUMED A LEADING ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO MAKE OAS MORE RESPONSIVE TO LATIN INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC ONES,

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AND IN REDUCING U.S. POLITICAL/SECURITY LEVERAGE

WITHIN THAT INSTITUTION. IN PARTICULAR, IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE ITS INTERESTS IN NIEO REFLECTED IN THOSE REFORMS. ALTHOUGH IT HAS PUSHED LESS ENERGETICALLY FOR U.N. REFORMS, IT CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO MORE IN THIS DIRECTION IN THE COMING YEAR--PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT FOR LDCS.

C. REGIONAL- ECHEVERRIA ORIGINALLY PROPOSED FORMATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION (SELA) IN 1973 AND HAS PROMOTED IT ENERGETICALLY SINCE THEN. SELA, WHICH CAME INTO BEING LATE LAST YEAR, IS VIEWED BY MEXICO AS A MECHANISM FOR COORDINATING LATIN ECONOMIC POLICIES VIS-A-VIS DCs, ESPECIALLY THE U.S., AND FOR CO-OPERATING IN SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTAL UNDERTAKINGS. ECHEVERRIA IS CURRENTLY PROMOTING FORMATION OF A SIMILAR ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBER OF CARIBBEAN BASIN SHIPPING ORGANIZATION NAMUCAR.

D. TRADE AND FINANCE- MEXICO REMAINS ACTIVE IN GATT NEGOTIATIONS BUT IS STILL RELUCTANT TO JOIN ON THE UNDERSTANDABLE GROUNDS MEXICO NOW GETS MOST OF THE BENEFITS BUT DOES NOT HAVE TO ASSUME THE OBLIGATIONS. MEXICO CONTINUES TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE IMF'S INTERIM AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES WHERE WE UNDERSTAND MEXICAN DELEGATIONS TAKE A LESS STRIDENT POSITION. WE ARE STILL DEVILING INTO MEXICAN INTERESTS IN CIEC.

E. DISARMAMENT- BOTH AT U. N. AND AT CCD MEETINGS, MEXICAN REPS HAVE PUSHED GREAT POWERS TO ADVANCE MORE QUICKLY TOWARD ARMS REDUCTIONS, SOMETIMES PROPOSING ARITHMETIC FORMULAS WHICH ARE MORE INGENIOUS THAN REALISTIC AND FREQUENTLY ADVANCING LINE THAT RESOURCES SPENT ON ARMS SHOULD INSTEAD GO FOR DEVELOPMENT. AS ACTIVIST MEMBER AND HOST TO LATIN NFZ ORGANIZATION(OPANAL), MEXICO REGULARLY URGES DENUCLEARIZATION OF U.S. TERRITORIES WITHIN ZONE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMILAR ZONES ELSEWHERE.

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F. LAW OF THE SEAS- ALTHOUGH AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS, MEXICO APPARENTLY DECIDED LAST YEAR THAT PROGRESS WAS TOO SLOW AND UNILATERALLY DECLARED A 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF ITS OWN TO COME INTO EFFECT IN JUNE OF 1976. IT NEVERTHELESS REMAINS INTERESTED IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND ADVOCATES AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR DEEP SEA BEDS, AS WELL AS COASTAL

STATE PRIMACY IN SETTING ENVIRONMENTAL
AND RESEARCH STANDARDS.
G. NACOTICS- WITH THE RISE IN NARCOTICS
TRAFFIC BETWEEN U.S. AND MEXICO, THE GOM
HAS TAKEN INCREASED INTEREST IN CND AND
PUSHED HARD (WITH ULTIMATE SUCCESS) FOR
SELECTION OF MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL AS
PRESIDENT OF THIS YEAR'S CND SESSION.

2. UNDER ECHEVERRIA(QUIITE UNLIKE MOST PREDECESSORS)
MEXICO HAS ENERGETICALLY SOUGHT LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG
LDCS, BOTH REGIONALLY AND WORLDWIDE. ECHEVERRIA ASPIRED,
AT LEAST FOR A TIME, TO BE U.N. SECGEN, AND FAILURE OF HIS
CANDIDACY TO PROSPER HAS DIMMED ONLY SLIGHTLY HIS SOMEWHAT
MESSIANIC "MISSION" TO FORSTER THIRD WORLD ORGANIZATION.
EXTENT TO WHICH MEXICO HAS CAPTURED LEADERSHIP ROLE TO
WHICH IT ASPIRES--OR WHETHER TO CONTRARY IT IS LED INTO
THIRD WORLD POSTURES BY OTHERS--IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS.
CERTAINLY, ITS PORTURING IS MODERATED BY PRAGMATIC
CONSIDERATIONS OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE U.S. REACTION(E.G.
OPEC MEMBERS, OAS REFORM), JUST AS ITS WORLDVIEW IS
CONDITIONED BY ITS INTEREST IN ACHIEVING GREATER LEADERSHIP
AMONG LATINS, ESPECIALLY IN CARIBBEAN BASIN(MEXICO, FOR
EXAMPLE, WAS A PRIME MOVER IN HAVING OAS TAKE UP TRADE
REFORM ACT, ALTHOUGH ITSELF ONE OF THE MAJOR GSP
BENEFICIARIES). INFLUENCE IS A TWO-WAY STREET, AND GOM
KNOWS IT MUST PAY A CERTAIN PRICE TO OBTAIN AND EXERT
INFLUENCE IT ARDENTLY SEEKS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 2690

3. WITH RESPECT TO THIS AND FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH, CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE LATELY CHANGED WITHIN MEXICAN DIPLOMACY WHICH PROBABLY ALTER PAST BEHAVIOR BUT MAKE FUTURE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT: MEXICO'S NEW FONSEC, ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES, WAS PREVIOUSLY ITS SENIOR REP AT UN, AND IN DISARMAMENT/NFZ FORUMS, WHERE HE ENJOYED EXTROORDINARILY FREE REIN IN DEFINING GOM POSITION. AS FONSEC, WE SUSPECT HE WILL BE INCLINED TO TIGHTEN REIN AND CENTRALIZE POLICY-MAKING SOMEWHAT. TO DO SO, HOWEVER, HE WILL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH OTHER STRONG FIGURES IN MSXICAN DIPLOMACY, SUCH AS OAS AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA, WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED TO RELATIVE FREE HAND SUCH AS HE HIMSELF ENJOYED. APART FROM MAJOR POLITICAL FORUMS, MEXDELS USUALLY RECEIVE ADEQUATE MARCHING ORDERS (VERY OFTEN AT ELEVENTH HOUR) AND, IN DEGREES VARYING WITH DELEGATE PERSONALITIES, CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THEM. REPORTING IS IRREGULAR AND USUALLY SLOW, EXCEPT ON MAJOR ISSUES WHICH MAY BE FOLLOWED QUITE CLOSELY IN MEXICO CITY.

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4. APART FROM NEW CIRCUMSTANCES AT FONSEC DESCRIBED ABOVE, CHIEF IMPEDIMENT TO COORDINATED GOM CONTROL OVER DELS IS RIVALRY AMONG VARIOUS MINISTRIES INVOLVED IN MULTILATERAL DEALINGS. IT IS REGULAR PRACTICE HERE TO CHARGE MINISTRIES OTHER THAN FONSEC WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CONFERENCES WITHIN THEIR DOMAIN, COMPLICATING COORDINATION. MOREOVER, THERE HAS IN PAST BEEN ESPECIALLY INTENSE RIVALRY BETWEEN FONSEC AND SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY, WHOSE HEAD IS YOUNG, AMBITIOUS FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO. ALEJO HAS MADE SELA AND NIEO MATTERS GENERALLY HIS PERSONAL VEHICLES FOR ADVANCEMENT, AND HE AND HIS YOUTHFUL CORPS OF ADVISORS TEND TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF FONSEC DELS IN THESE AREAS (ON WHICH FONSEC IS WEAK IN ANY EVENT) WITH PREDICYABLE RESULTS. FINANCIAL AND TRADE MATTERS SEEM TO REMAIN UNDER THE FINANCE MINISTRY WITH BANK OF MEXICO PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE.

5. GOM OFFICIALS LISTEN POLITELY TO US REPRESENTATATIONS, WELCOME INFO OR DATA WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE, BUT

UNFORTUNATELY PAY LITTLE HEED TO OUR REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT
UNLESS IT IS CLEARLY IN MEXICO'S OWN INTEREST TO DO SO.
ONLY RARELY DOES GOM COME TO US WITH SIMILAR
REPRESENTATIONS (E.G. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF
MEXICAN CANDIDATE FOR MULTILATERAL OFFICE). RATHER,
WE SEE INCREASING TENDENCY FOR GOM TO CONSULT FIRST WITH
REGIONAL OR G-77 MEMBERS BEFORE ENGAGING U.S. IN
DISCUSSIONS (LOS CONSULTATIONS HAVE PROVIDED SOME
HOPEFUL EXCEPTIONS). ON OTHER HAND, FONSEC AND MEXDELS
USUALLY WELCOM COOPERATION WITH US IN INTERNATIONAL
FORUMS, ONCE THEY HAVE CHECKED BASE WITH OTHERS AND
HAVE DETERMINED THAT OUR INTERESTS COINCIDE. IN
LATTER INSTANCES. INDEED, THEY HAVE OFTEN PROVED
VERY HELPFUL, IN MODERATING POSITIONS OF OTHER DELS
IN BARGAINING SITUATIONS.
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